
NEWS RELEASE

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SENATORS GREGG AND SUNUNU ANNOUNCE FUNDING FOR OVERHAUL OF USS JACKSONVILLE AT PORTS. NAVAL SHIPYARD CONTINUES TO ADVANCE

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH) and John Sununu (R-NH) yesterday supported the passage of the Fiscal Year 2004 Department of Defense Appropriations bill by the full Senate. The measure includes \$248 million for an engineering refueling overhaul of the USS Jacksonville, SSN 699, at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. In addition to the overhaul, the measure includes \$28.9 million to be divided between the four U.S. Naval shipyards for the Naval Shipyard Apprentice Program. The measure now heads to a joint House/Senate Conference Committee before returning to each chamber for final passage.

Senator Gregg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, stated, "The passage of the Defense bill by the full Senate yesterday is good news for the workers at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The Shipyard has proven itself up to the task twice since last winter – returning the Alexandria and the Albuquerque back to the water in less time than was anticipated and under budget."

Senator Sununu stated, "The funding in the Department of Defense bill for the Jacksonville will allow Portsmouth Naval Shipyard employees to again demonstrate their expertise at repairing and overhauling Los Angeles Class nuclear submarines. I have no doubt that this project will serve as another example that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is a cost-effective and competitive resource for the Navy."

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